The Furman network

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When job-hunting, do you use your Furman connections? When you move to a new city, do you seek out Furman alumni?

Alumni networking benefits all Furman graduates, but it is especially important for students and young alumni.

Take the case of Tracy Mueller, a 2000 grad. During her junior year, Tracy worked with the Alumni Office to identify Atlanta alumni employed in the fields she was considering — public relations and law. Through her Furman contacts, she landed internships in both areas and discovered that she wanted to pursue a legal career. Upon graduation, she was offered a full-time position as a legal assistant at the law firm where she interned.

"I had an immensely positive experience utilizing the Furman alumni network," she says. "I can't think of a better way to get your foot in the door than with the help of an established connection — in this case, Furman." She hopes to take advantage of her Furman ties again when she completes law school in three years.

Tracy's classmate, Christine Farrell, had a similar experience. Armed with a degree in business administration, she asked the Alumni Office to generate a list of alumni living and working in Greenville. Christine contacted alums in careers that interested her and says this was "a great way to network. Most of the people I called gave me someone else to call."

One contact, who had no openings at the ad agency where she worked, kept her eye out for other possibilities and forwarded them to Christine. The result: Christine found a position as an account executive with Erwin-Penland, a Greenville advertising agency, where she began working just three months after graduation.

The Young Alumni Association (YAC) works to strengthen ties between young alumni and Furman. We want alumni to stay in touch with each other, and a good way to do so is through job networking. As Christine and Tracy learned, the Alumni Office can help.

Another resource for Furman graduates is the Young Alumni Resource Directory (YARD). The YARD lists the names of alumni who can provide career advice to young alumni or help them acclimate to a new area. By listing your name and information in the YARD, you reach out to young alumni in your area. The YARD is a great resource for job-hunting, networking, or just learning about a new city. For a copy, contact the Alumni Office.

So remember: If you're job hunting or moving to a new city, Furman can help. And if you're looking for a new employee or a summer intern, check with Furman as well.

Alumni networking works! — Nancy Thomas Kennedy '90

The author is a member of the Young Alumni Council.